

evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry... 2 TIMOTHY 4:5. Paul then goes over some personal information concerning himself, which we won't review here at this time, and then makes a request to **Timothy**, which he repeats twice. This request is first found in 2 TIMOTHY 4:9, which reads: *Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: ...* . This request is repeated in 2 TIMOTHY 4:21 *Do thy diligence to come before winter*. Conyebare and Howson have Paul writing this request in 2 TIMOTHY during the spring of 68 A.D. They also have Paul being executed during the last days of this very same spring, thus it appears as if **Timothy** never got to see Paul here on earth before his death. His time here on earth ran out before **Timothy** could get to Paul before winter. Thus the instructions found in 2 TIMOTHY were the last words written to **Timothy** from Paul, and highly treasured by him.

(22) Demas

In his concluding remarks of 2 TIMOTHY 4 Paul makes special mention of thirteen more people that **Timothy** also knew. **Demas** is mentioned first, and is number twenty-two in our list of thirty-four people Paul mentions by name in his last three epistles of 1 TIMOTHY, TITUS, and 2 TIMOTHY. Let's don't passover this point too lightly that **Demas** is number twenty-two in the list of thirty-four people that the Holy Ghost had Paul write about in his final three epistles. Twenty-two is the number associated with LIGHT. JOHN 1:4 speaks of Jesus, and says: *In him was life; and the life was the light of men*. The word life in this scripture is number 2222 in the Strongs Greek Concordance: Zoe. In this verse life and light are the same. This 2222 in Strong's = Zoe, which is life as God has life. Because of Jesus' work on the cross, we can have this same life or light in us. Reading on in JOHN 1:6 *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world*. Reading further in JOHN 8:12 we find these words of Jesus: *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life*. Again in JOHN 9:5 Jesus says: *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world*. What did Saul of Tarsus find in the way on the road to Damascus? LIGHT. This LIGHT was brighter than the noonday sun. Who was this LIGHT? ACTS 9:5 gives the answer: *...And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks*. Jesus the LIGHT of the world appeared in the way to Saul of Tarsus, and he indeed saw the LIGHT. Saul of Tarsus goes on to become the Apostle Paul, who writes in 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*. One of the thousands who personally heard the Apostle Paul preach, and teach the gospel message of Jesus Christ, the light of life, was **Demas**, who is mentioned three times by Paul in Paul's epistles. The last time Paul writes about **Demas** is in 2 TIMOTHY 4:10 *For **Demas** hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica...* . Perhaps **Timothy** noted a dried tear or two on the parchment as he read these words of Paul *...**Demas** hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica...* . No doubt these words were also painful for Paul to write. Perhaps as **Timothy** read this he too thought within himself: "no not **Demas**, what happened to him?" Let's attempt to answer this question, for there are a lot of **Demas**' out there.

Recall that we have discussed **Demas** before in this study, for he was one of the ten we identified as visiting Paul at Rome during Paul's first prison term there. {Study again pages 1182-1184 of these notes.} **Demas** name means: "popular," or "of the people." Paul, and Paul's doctrine wasn't "popular," nor was it "popular" "of the people." Satan has influence over worldly man, and promotes the ones who are "popular" in this world. Recall that there was a number we discussed in our meaning of numbers study that had to do in part with SATAN'S INFLUENCE OVER

WORLDLY MAN, and that number was the number six, which also points to MAN; SATAN; and then SATAN'S INFLUENCE OVER WORLDLY MAN. Interestingly we find Thessalonica mentioned exactly six times in scripture, and here in 2 TIMOTHY 4:10 is the sixth and final time Thessalonica is found written in the Bible. Paul told **Timothy** here in 2 TIMOTHY 4:10 what happened to **Demas**: ...*Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world...* . Paul might as well have written: '**Demas** has forsaken me, having loved rather to be popular with the people.' Perhaps **Demas**' leaving Paul inspired Paul to write the warnings we read above that were written to **Timothy**. 2 TIMOTHY 3:1 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. 9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. ...13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.* Obviously **Demas** had become deceived himself ...*having loved this present world...* . Paul wrote to **Timothy** in 2 TIMOTHY 1:15 *This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me...* . Now add **Demas** to this list, even though he wasn't from Asia. If they had turned away from Paul, we know that they had before this turned away from Jesus being their first love. That is, Jesus was no longer first in their lives; Jesus was not their first love. Paul wrote to the Galatians in GALATIANS 5:7 *Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?* The answer to this question is that there were other people who persuaded those at Galatia to put something other than Jesus first in their life. At one point in time **Demas** was a fellowlabourer with the Apostle Paul, and PHILEMON 1:24 tells us this. We know that in order for **Demas** to be a fellowlabourer with Paul, **Demas** would of had to have put Jesus first in his life, and that Paul's doctrine was highly valued by **Demas**, at least at that time in his life. At one point **Demas** must have been like a sponge soaking up the entire gospel of Jesus Christ that Paul preached. **Demas** was with Paul in Rome when he wrote his epistle to the COLOSSIANS, for Paul writes in COLOSSIANS 4:14 *...and Demas, greet you.* The Greek word used in COLOSSIANS 4:14 for greeting means: to pay respects to a distinguished person by visiting him, which shows us what **Demas** thought of Paul. Obviously **Demas** thought much of Paul, and had traveled with him, and labored with him in the gospel. But there came a day when a choice was made by **Demas** concerning the path he would pursue after that time when Paul was gone. No doubt **Demas** had heard Paul speak the words of PHILIPPIANS 1:29 *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.* **Demas** also had witnessed some of the sufferings Paul went through, and was now going through. With his eyes on Paul, and not looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, **Demas** must have asked himself; "What am I doing here? What am I going to do after Paul is gone?" Such kinds of questions open wide the door of doubt, and ushers in unbelief, and shortly there after, if left unchecked, a new course of action takes place. Paul wrote **Timothy** in his first letter to him this statement found in 1 TIMOTHY 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.* **Demas** was one who departed from the faith, and abandoned the Apostle Paul at the very time Paul could have used more encouragement. So with a very heavy heart Paul writes **Timothy** this concerning **Demas** in 2 TIMOTHY 4:10: ...*Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world...* . **Demas** had traded his preeminent love for Jesus by putting a love for this present world first. It is to those of a heart attitude like **Demas** that Jesus wrote in REVELATION 2:4 *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.* Again at one time **Demas** had shown his first love for

Jesus in his ministering with the Apostle Paul. And note also here in 2 TIMOTHY 4:10 that it was most recently that **Demas** had forsaken Paul. It seems that **Demas** had traveled with Paul once again to Rome, but the tug of the world pulled him away. Full overcomer Abraham ...*looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God...* according to HEBREWS 11:10. **Demas** on the other hand also looked for a city, not a heavenly city, but rather a city where he could be popular, and so Paul wrote that **Demas** ...*is departed unto Thessalonica...* 2 TIMOTHY 4:10. Abraham looked up, **Demas** looked south.

Let's read 2 TIMOTHY 4:10 again: ...*Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world...* . The word "forsaken" here is number 1459 in the Strong's Greek Concordance, and means: to desert; to leave in straits, or leave helpless; to totally abandoned, or utterly forsake! What an empty feeling Paul must have had as **Demas** totally abandoned him. And then Paul writes why **Demas** deserted Paul, ...*having loved this present world...* . It wasn't that **Demas** didn't love the Lord, for obviously he did, but not with that pre-eminent first place, full overcoming love that is required to have God's best. Be aware that there is an innumerable company of **Demas**' out in the world today. Take heed, and don't be a **Demas**. Put Jesus first in everything, like Paul did.

Let's go back and read the verses that Paul wrote **Timothy** just before he mentioned **Demas**. 2 TIMOTHY 4:5 *But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.* 6 *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.* 7 *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:* 8 *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.* Do you think Paul made similar statements to **Demas**? I think that Paul and **Demas** must have had a discussion or two that consisted of these very same thoughts. Paul might have said something like this to **Demas**: '**Demas** old friend, as you can see by being here with me in Rome, the time of my departure from this earth is nigh at hand. I have no regrets, for ever since that day I met Jesus on the road to Damascus, I have followed His Divine leading; I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith, I have endured afflictions, and persecutions, and have made full proof of my ministry. **Demas** you have been a part of my ministry also, and witnessed many things. Thank you for your hours of labor with me in the gospel. Thank you for coming with me here to Rome. You have been a good friend, and I thank the Lord for you. I encourage you to continue running the race for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. For me I know there is laid up a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge shall give me at that day. And **Demas**, old friend, this very same crown of righteousness is offered to all them that also love His appearing. **Demas** I encourage you after my departure to keep looking up to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith, and to continue running with patience the race that is set before you. Are you hearing what I am saying **Demas**? **Demas**...' .

Of course we know the path **Demas** chose, for it is recorded for us this way in 2 TIMOTHY 4:10 ...*Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica...* . A few verses later Paul reveals that **Demas** wasn't the only one who left him. Paul writes of his first appearance before Caesar's court in 2 TIMOTHY 4:16 *At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.* We detect the disappointment Paul expressed here in his fellow man, but note also how quickly his focus changed to that continual upward look he had as he continues to write: *I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.* Then without further hesitation Paul adds these words in 2 TIMOTHY 4:17 & 18 -- *Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.* 18 *And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.* Full overcomer Abraham looked for a city; full overcomer the Apostle Paul looked unto The Lord's heavenly kingdom; and **Demas** looked to return to Thessalonica!

Again 2 TIMOTHY 4:10 is also the last mention of Thessalonica in the Bible. Recall that

when Paul first visited Thessalonica in ACTS 17, it was right after visiting Philippi for the first time. ACTS 17:2 & 3 tells us: *And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, 3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.* We are not told in scripture if **Demas** was there at that time and heard Paul preach, but somewhere down the road **Demas** become a believer, probably in Thessalonica, and learned Paul's doctrine. And **Demas** sought out Paul when he was in Rome, which is indicated by what Paul said of him in COLOSSIANS 4:14, and PHILEMON 1:24, where **Demas** is named with Aristarchus, both fellowlabourers with Paul. Note the names mentioned in PHILEMON 1:24 *Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.* All except Aristarchus are found mentioned in 2 TIMOTHY 4 also. Aristarchus was also noted as being with Paul as he left Caesarea a prisoner on that fateful trip to Rome in ACTS 27:2. Aristarchus here in ACTS 27:2 is noted as being ... *a Macedonian of Thessalonica...* . Perhaps Aristarchus was the one instrumental in leading **Demas** to the Lord. Aristarchus we know was a close follower of the Apostle Paul, and one of the ten, along with **Demas** who visited Paul when he first was in prison in Rome. Perhaps Aristarchus had been a strong influence in **Demas'** early Christian walk. Perhaps in the end, if Aristarchus was still alive, and living in Thessalonica, he could have been given the opportunity to once again encourage **Demas** to put Jesus first in his life. However there is no scriptural evidence to support this, and we only read this in 2 TIMOTHY 4:10 ...*Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica...* .

There was another man mentioned back in ACTS 17 who was there when Paul first visited Thessalonica, and his name was Jason. Jason was one of the very first men who had taken Paul in there at Thessalonica, and with much enthusiasm Jason had strongly latched on to Paul's gospel message. In Jason's house Paul's gospel message was first preached in Thessalonica outside of the preaching that Paul did there in the synagogue. The Holy Ghost inspired the writers of New Testament scripture to mention Jason exactly five times to emphasize to us the fact that Jason was truly a GRACE Saint. Obviously Jason readily and immediately accepted the grace message of Paul, and as a result he too was soon persecuted, for ACTS 17:9 tells us that the rulers of Thessalonica took "security of Jason." Jason's name means "healer" or "one who will heal." Maybe Jason, if still alive, could have talked to **Demas** after he forsook Paul, but again there is no evidence to support this thought either.

Some unknown author penned a sad poem written of **Demas**, noted before in this study, and will repeat again here, author unknown:

Demas at Thessalonica

I love him still --- a noble soul --- this Paul;
But one must live, the part of wisdom choose.
What gain to Christ, were I to lose my all?
This Christ-mad man reck's not what I may lose.

I labored with him long and faithfully,
A fiery soul, whose zeal no words can tell.
His faith fails not; but yet, it seems to me,
His work is ended in that prison cell.

And so I left him and am home once more.
May follow trade and gain with none to let.
The bay, the streets are pleasant as of yore,
And all my friends are kind --- and yet, and yet---

That face like Luke's upon crowded way,
That glimpse of Jason's house I had today.